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United States Department of Agriculture Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine

## AN INEXPENSIVE FIRE EXTINGUISHER

By J. R. Douglass, Division of Truck Crop and Garden Insect Investigations

A simple and inexpensive fire extinguisher is made from a large, burntout electric light bulb (fig. 1).

The center contact cap of the bulb is pried off with a knife. The dark-colored glass beneath the cap is tapped lightly until it breaks. The pieces of glass are removed, and a small single-cut file is inserted through the opening into the hole in the glass support tube to which the filaments are fastened. The file is rotated until the small hole is made large enough to permit filling the bulb with carbon tetrachloride. After the bulb has been filled, the opening is stopped with a cork and covered with paraffin. A small wire is soldered to each side of the shell to form a loop to hang the bulb by.

In case of fire the bulb is thrown into the fire with sufficient force to break the bulb and liberate the carbon tetrachloride, which is used commonly as a fire extinguisher.

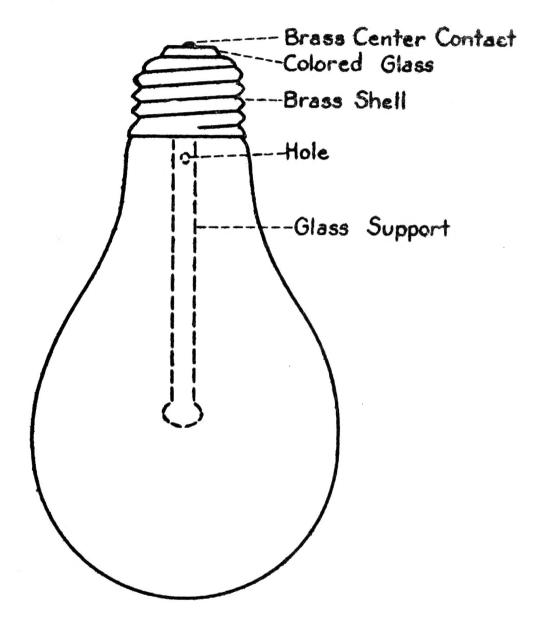


Figure 1.--Outline sketch of burnt-out electric light bulb, showing parts affected in adapting it to use as a fire extinguisher.

